

limit. If you do not raise the limit, sometimes counties are besieged with requirements for specifications and for contracting that do nothing towards the efficiency and the enhancement of the project but rather tie everything up into a bureaucracy that costs more to the counties and, therefore, the taxpayers, by going through extensive specifications of projects that will lend themselves to competitive, open bidding than the project itself might cost. Especially when you get down in the lower areas of 5, 10, 15 thousand dollars, it could take an engineer or a group of county employees that much time in salaries to put together a set of specifications to designate what the project was going to be and exactly how it was going to be performed and cost so much time and money to the county that it just is inefficient to do so. So the limit of the 40,000 or the 60,000, I would admit, is quite arbitrary and I recognize that inflation should allow for some increase, but I am a little hesitant towards supporting the bill. In any case, the amendment that I do offer I offer as a friendly amendment to the bill and only as a clarification to what I think the real intent of the original legislation was.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lamb, please, on the Hannibal amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I rise to support the amendment. On the surface of it, at least, I see nothing wrong with it. I think it does clarify the language in the bill, but it is language that is already in statute. It is not clarifying anything that the bill does or the committee amendment. It is clarifying what has been on the books for a long time, but it does look as if it would be beneficial.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hannibal, did you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. President, no further comments, except only to reiterate what the amendment does do because I know some people are asking me now what it does do. Only changes one word in the bill, and it is old language in the bill. It refers to the word "instance" on page 2 line 9. I'm changing that to read "project" so that there would be less confusion as to whether a project could be stockpiled by having purchased materials in several instances until you get enough to complete a project. We're changing the word "instance" to "project".